



State of California-Health and Human Services Agency
Department of Health Services



SANDRA SHEWRY
Director

ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER
Governor

December 8, 2005

To: GENETICALLY HANDICAPPED PERSONS PROGRAM (GHPP) CLIENTS

If you have both Medicare and Medi-Cal coverage, this letter is to notify you that there will be a change in your outpatient prescription drug coverage. If you do not have both Medicare and Medi-Cal coverage please disregard this letter.

On January 1, 2006, Medicare will begin coverage for outpatient prescription drugs under a new Part D of that program. As stated in a notice sent to you by the Medi-Cal Program (a copy is provided as reference), you will automatically be placed in a Part D drug plan.

You may have already received from Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) a letter informing you what plan they have placed you. Placement in one of these drug plans is mandatory. Beginning first week of November 2005, you should have received a notice from CMS informing you of your assigned drug plan for 2006.

Effective January 1, 2006, GHPP clients who have Medicare and Medi-Cal will have prescription drug coverage via Medicare and not from GHPP.

The only drugs that GHPP will continue to provide you are those drugs that are "specifically excluded" from coverage by the drug plans.

- They include:
 - Drugs for:
 - Anorexia, weight loss or weight gain
 - Symptomatic relief of coughs and colds
 - Some non-prescription drugs (such as insulin and syringes)
 - Barbiturates
 - Benzodiazepines
 - Prescription vitamins and minerals

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You should be aware that as a Part D-eligible recipient you will have to make co-payments for each prescription you get. Co-payments can range from \$1 to \$5 for each prescription fill, depending on the drug and the plan. Providers may choose to waive co-pays or may deny service if you cannot pay the co-pay.

It is recommended that you explore whether you wish to remain in your assigned plan or enroll in another plan. You may change plans by calling the plan that you want to be in. They will help you to sign up into their plan and disenroll from your assigned plan. Medicare Part D plans will not cover blood factor products because those products are covered by Medicare Part B.

For help in picking a Medicare prescription drug plan:

- Ask your pharmacy which plans they will be accepting;
- Talk to your doctor about which plans will work best with the prescriptions you take;
- Call HICAP (Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program) for help in choosing a Medicare drug plan at 1-800-434-0222;
- Visit www.medicare.gov on the web; or
- Call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048.

If you have questions on the GHPP, please call 1-916-327-0470.

Sincerely,

Original Signed by Marian Dalsey, M.D., M.P.H.

Marian Dalsey, M.D., M.P.H., Acting Chief
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Enclosure